

LIFE Programme in the Netherlands



Facts and figures

The LIFE Programme has funded 269 projects in the Netherlands over 198 coordinating beneficiaries with total project costs of €846m, of which the EU contributed €281m.

The LIFE Programme is the EU's funding instrument for environment and climate action. It has been running since 1992 and has co-financed more than 5500 projects across the EU and in third countries, mobilising more over €12 billion and contributing with more than €5 billion to the protection of the environment and climate. The LIFE programme contributes fully to the objectives and targets of the European Green Deal.

The budget for the period 2021–2027 is set at €5.4 billion.

The following sub-programmes are covered (*):

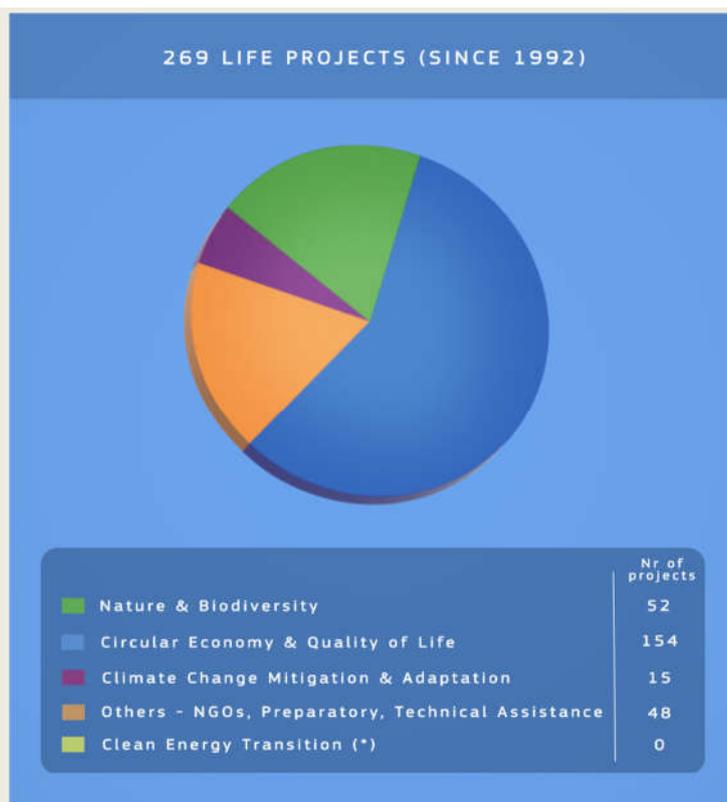
- **Nature and biodiversity**
- **Circular economy and quality of life**
- **Climate change mitigation and adaptation**
- **Clean energy transition** (first call for projects in 2021) (*)

For more information:

https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/life_en

'The future is green. The future is LIFE' leaflet

Past and closed projects are designated in this document with the new LIFE programme 2021-2027 nomenclature



INVESTMENT IN LIFE PROJECTS IN NETHERLANDS (€ million)

	TOTAL INVESTMENT	EU CONTRIBUTION
ALL LIFE projects	846	281
Nature & Biodiversity	212	105
Circular Economy & Quality of Life	479	118
Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation	110	49
Others - NGOs, Preparatory, Technical Assistance	45	9.5



LIFE Nature and Biodiversity

The Nature and Biodiversity strand includes support for standard action projects for developing, applying and promoting best practice in relation to nature and biodiversity, as well as “Strategic Nature Projects” (SNAP). These new projects support the achievement of Union nature and biodiversity objectives by implementing coherent programmes of action in Member States in order to mainstream those objectives and priorities into other policies and financing instruments, including through coordinated implementation of the prioritised action frameworks adopted pursuant to Directive 92/43/EEC.

To date, the LIFE Nature and Biodiversity component has co-financed 52 projects in the Netherlands. These represent a total investment of €212 million, of which €105 million has been contributed by the EU.

Completed LIFE Nature projects focused on habitat restoration (salt marshes, polders, coastal dunes, bogs, wetlands, sand drifts and heathlands; as well as wetlands in the Alde Feanen Natura 2000 site) and on the improvement and restoration of specific habitats for species such as the root vole, amphibians, black vulture, corncrake, black-tailed godwit, widgeon and black tern, bittern and great reed warbler in the IJsseldelta, as well as the large blue and dusky large blue butterflies. The RE-VULTURES project reduced acute threats to black and griffon vultures and allowed them to recover in the Bulgarian/Greek cross-border area of the Eastern Rhodope Mountains. The coordinating project beneficiaries were mainly NGOs (more than half of them), but also included national, regional and local authorities, as well as public enterprises.

There are six ongoing projects. Their objectives are to restore habitats: a natural river course – to encourage fish migration – by restoring the connectivity between the Wadden Sea and the IJsselmeer as well as raised bogs in Engbertsdijkvenen. The other projects target species, such as the European bison in the Tarcu and Poiana Rusca Mountains in southwest Romania; and the Dalmatian pelican along the Black Sea-Mediterranean flyway; Brown bears in Central Italy and Greece through the development of coexistence corridors; and fighting invasive coypu and muskrat in the Netherlands and the neighboring countries Belgium and Germany.

Two ongoing projects under this strand are co-funded by the former Environmental governance and Information strand: the long-term goal of the LIFE Against Bird Crime project is to significantly reduce the illegal killing, trapping and taking of birds in the EU and neighbouring Mediterranean regions; whereas the BalkanDetoxLife project aims to improve the management of poisoning incidents in the target areas, leading to a significant reduction of mortality of vultures and other affected species from poisoning. The project will regularly engage governmental authorities to ensure that poisons are labelled as socially unacceptable.

Two ongoing Strategic Nature Projects have been co-funded in the Netherlands. The IPE Deltanatuur project focuses on the implementation of the Dutch Prioritised Action Framework (PAF) and achieving the objectives of the EU Biodiversity Strategy. The LIFE IP PAF All4Biodiversity project’s objectives are described below.



Boosting biodiversity with the help of land users (LIFE IP ALL4Biodiversity) LIFE19 IPE/NL/000011

Biodiversity is declining in nature reserves in the Netherlands. This Integrated Project aims to restore this biodiversity in various Natura 2000 sites by reducing threats coming from land use in surrounding areas. These threats include excessive nutrients coming from farmland, land drying due to drainage, and pollution that reduces water quality for aquatic species. Project lead, Province Zuid Holland, will involve managers of Natura 2000 sites and users of surrounding land areas in activities. Close cooperation between relevant governmental organisations, nature conservation groups, farmers, businesses, scientific institutes and others is also foreseen. The team recognises that nature conservation to enhance biodiversity must be based on mutual benefits and new agricultural business models. This will be key when the team develops management plans for rural areas – a key feature of this project.

[Project summary](#)



Circular Economy and Quality of Life

Actions supported under the Circular economy and quality of life strand will help in reaching major EU policy objectives such as the transition to a circular economy, as well as protecting and improving the quality of the environment and life. Under this strand, Strategic Integrated Projects (SIP), will implement, on a regional, multi-regional, national or transnational scale, environmental or climate strategies or action plans developed by Member States' authorities and required by specific environmental, climate or relevant energy legislation or policy of the Union. These projects will also ensure that stakeholders are involved and promoting coordination with and mobilisation of at least one other Union, national or private funding source.

This strand [formerly LIFE Environment and Resource Efficiency and Environmental Governance and Information] has co-financed 154 projects in the Netherlands thus far, representing a total investment of €479 million, of which €118 million has been provided by the EU.

Completed projects focused mainly on technological development, with a particular emphasis on clean technologies, wastewater treatment, water supply and water quality improvement. They also covered issues such as eco-labelling; integrated environmental management; sustainable building; reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases and air pollutants; abatement of traffic noise (e.g. solar panels as integrated constructive elements in highway noise barriers); the management of municipal, industrial and hazardous waste; end-of-life vehicle recycling (by means of post-shredder technology); transport planning and monitoring (boosting electro-mobility in Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Utrecht); risk assessment and public health protection (e.g. speeding up implementation of EU environmental regulations with regard to the substitution of endocrine disrupting chemicals); reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and energy use (technical feasibility and cost effectiveness of a full-scale 1 MW tidal-energy installation, and demonstration of a new environmentally-friendly process technology for manufacturing flexible electronic components); municipal waste management (reversed waste collection in Arnhem) and waste use (new system to transfer heat from the sewage system to urban buildings, innovative process to produce bio-based plastic out of cellulose recovered from domestic wastewater, and demonstration of separation and closed-loop recycling of carpet waste into polymers for reuse in carpet production); upcycling the process for low-density polyethylene plastic waste; recycling used beverage cartons and poly-cups; improvement of the environmental performance of road construction and maintenance processes; and reduction of ammonia emissions and closing the nitrogen loop in dairy cattle farming. Multinationals and SMEs were the main coordinating beneficiaries. Other types of beneficiaries included local and regional authorities, public enterprises, a large commercial enterprise, a university, NGOs and research institutions.

There are 11 ongoing projects in the Netherlands. These are tackling diverse environmental themes, including: waste recycling/reuse (preventing the use of 'virgin' copper, producing price-competitive bio-based guardrails, demonstrating the technical and economic feasibility of a full-scale treatment facility for the different fractions of bottom ash, demonstration of innovative alginate production from granular sludge, recycling of both EPS construction waste and extruded polystyrene (XPS), demonstration of an economically-viable alternative to incineration; and sustainable recycling of (carbon) fibre composites and biomass waste to valued added Carbon Green products); water management and wastewater treatment (development of a sustainable and circular sewage treatment model); riverine plastic removal, and extraction of ammonium from wastewater in an economic and energy-efficient way; air quality in urban areas situated close to ports and inland waterways; agriculture (and introduction of new organic biostimulants into conventional agriculture); and circular economy (demonstration of a local-scale circular economy concept based around road management).

One ongoing project was co-funded under the former Environmental Governance and Information strand. The overall objective of the LIFE timber in housing project is to increase the demand for timber from sustainably managed forests by increasing its use in social housing in the Netherlands and Denmark.



LIFE Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

The LIFE Climate change mitigation and adaptation strand will support actions which help implement the 2030 energy and climate policy framework and meet the European Union's commitments under the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Projects under this strand will contribute to a renewable energy based- and climate- resilient economy. Under this strand, Strategic Integrated Projects (SIP), will implement, on a regional, multi-regional, national or transnational scale, environmental or climate strategies or action plans developed by Member States' authorities and required by specific environmental, climate or relevant energy legislation or policy of the Union. These projects will also ensure that stakeholders are involved and promoting coordination with and mobilisation of at least one other Union, national or private funding source.

To date, the Climate Change strand has co-financed 15 projects in the Netherlands. The total investment for these projects amounts to €110 million, of which the EU is contributing €49 million.

One of these projects, LIFE OPTIMELT, is closed. It has carried out the first full-scale demonstration of an innovative waste heat recovery concept in the Netherlands.

LIFE URBAN-ADAPT aims to demonstrate an innovative, participatory approach as an essential element in creating acceptance and commitment among the public and stakeholders for large-scale implementation of urban adaptation strategies and related measures. LIFE AERFIT aims to demonstrate an innovative adaptation technology to prevent damage from urban pluvial flooding. LIFE@Urban Roofs will encourage real estate developers and building owners to invest in climate change adaptation. Farm LIFE will be building rural networks for climate-adaptive agriculture. LIFE Local Water Adapt will demonstrate a unique approach to local water management – collective adaptive water management (CAWM) – as an effective urban adaptation strategy; LIFE_FRESHMAN aims at sustainable freshwater management in coastal zones. LIFE Terra will set up Europe's single biggest citizen-driven initiative to plant and monitor 500 million trees to mitigate climate change. LIFE CO2SAND's goal is to demonstrate the effectiveness of increasing the resilience and carbon sink capacity of sandy farmland by enriching it with clayey and loamy soil. LIFE COOL SQUARE aims at transforming the Damsterplein into a climate-adaptive, resilient, flexible and multifunctional urban location. LIFE NEW HYTS will demonstrate the possibilities for local production, distribution and use of green hydrogen for road transport. LIFE CRITICAL aims to achieve climate resilience through citizens' involvement; LIFE CLIMATE FOREST will demonstrate a tree-oriented management approach for improving climate resilience of forest ecosystems on sandy soils, which are characteristic of Dutch forests. LIFE MIBA FILLER aims to replace cement by an innovative binder from incinerator bottom ash.

One ongoing Strategic Integrated Project has been co-funded in the Netherlands under this strand. The LIFE-IP NL-NASCCELERATE project's objectives are described below.



Better climate change resilience and adaptation (NL-NASCCELERATE) LIFE20 IPC/NL/000006

Much of the Netherlands is susceptible to large-scale coastal and river flooding, while climate change is expected to affect its agricultural and horticultural production significantly. In addition, the Dutch National Climate Adaptation Strategy has identified several climate change impacts which need immediate action.

With this LIFE Integrated Project, the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management aims to stimulate climate change adaptation in several areas: water management, infrastructure, agriculture, nature, health, and spatial/urban planning. The team will speed up the National Climate Adaptation Strategy implementation and help make the Netherlands climate-resilient through measures such as demonstrations, pilots, and the development of best practices. Thousands of people are expected to benefit from increasing resilience to flooding and heat stress. Various sites in the Natura 2000 network of protected areas should improve their conservation status. Also, the National Climate Adaptation Strategy will be updated by 2027 with the help of knowledge and experience gained from this project.

[Project summary](#)



LIFE Clean Energy Transition

Building on the Intelligent Energy Europe (2003-2013) and Horizon 2020 Energy Efficiency (2014-2020) programmes, the LIFE Clean Energy Transition sub-programme continues to support the delivery of EU policies in the field of sustainable energy. In particular, it aims at facilitating the transition towards an energy-efficient, renewable energy-based, climate-neutral and -resilient economy across Europe.

The LIFE Clean Energy Transition sub-programme supports projects in the following five areas of intervention:

- 1) Building a national, regional and local policy framework supporting the clean energy transition;
- 2) Accelerating technology roll-out, digitalisation, new services and business models and enhancement of the related professional skills on the market;
- 3) Attracting private finance for sustainable energy;
- 4) Supporting the development of local and regional investment projects;
- 5) Involving and empowering citizens in the clean energy transition.

Want to know more about LIFE?

- Visit the [LIFE website](#) and [LIFE project database](#)

- Follow the LIFE programme on social media:



- Sign up to the [LIFE Programme](#) and [CINEA Clean Energy](#) Newsletters

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Ongoing LIFE Nature & Biodiversity projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Project acronym and link to the online summary	Website	Project duration
A new approach: a gradual, ecological freshwater-saltwater transition between Wadden Sea, IJsselmeer and the hinterland	LIFE16 NAT/NL/000155	Fish migration & BirdLIFE	https://www.deafsluitdijk.nl/projecten/vismigratierivier/	03/2018 -> 03/2024
Improvement of hydrological conditions for naturally regenerating raised bogs in Engbertsdijksvenen	LIFE18 NAT/NL/000636	AddMire LIFE	https://www.overijssel.nl/onderwerpen/natuur-en-landschap/ontwikkelopgave/natura-2000-gebieden/engbertsdijksvenen/hoogveenherstel-engbertsdijksvenen-addmire-life	07/2019 -> 06/2024
Conservation of the Dalmatian Pelican along the Black-Sea Mediterranean Flyway	LIFE18 NAT/NL/000716	Pelican Way of LIFE	https://rewildingeurope.com/tag/pelican-way-of-life/	09/2019 -> 03/2025
Management of Invasive Coypu and muskrat in Europe	LIFE18 NAT/NL/001047	LIFE MICA	https://lifemica.eu/	09/2019 -> 09/2023
Making ecosystems resilient to Invasive Alien Species	LIFE19 NAT/NL/000821	LIFE RESILIAS	https://bosgroepen.nl/bosgroep-zuid-nederland/life-resilias-versterken-van-de-veerkracht-van-bos-en-natuur-voorkomt-dominantie-door-invasieve-exoten/	09/2020 -> 09/2027
Enhancing the viability of Brown Bears in Central Italy and Greece through the development of coexistence corridors	LIFE20 NAT/NL/001107	LIFE Bear-Smart Corridors	N/A	10/2021 -> 09/2026
Delivering the EU Biodiversity Strategy: Awareness and Capacity Building against Bird Crime in Priority Flyway Countries	LIFE17 GIE/NL/000599	LIFE Against Bird Crime	https://flightforsurvival.org/life-against-bird-crimes/	09/2018 -> 12/2022
Strengthen national capacities to fight wildlife poisoning and raise awareness about the problem in the Balkan countries	LIFE19 GIE/NL/001016	BalkanDetoxLife	https://4vultures.org/projects/balkandetox-life/	10/2020 -> 09/2025
Integrated approach N2000 Delta Nature to catalyse the implementation of the Netherlands Prioritised Action Framework	LIFE15 IPE/NL/000016	DELTA Nature	https://life-ip-deltanatuur.nl/	10/2016 -> 09/2022
LIFE IP PAF Biodiversity recovery approach for N2000 sites and surroundings, in cooperation with agricultural and other land users	LIFE19 IPE/NL/000011	LIFE IP PAF All4Biodiversity	https://all4biodiversity.nl/	03/2020 -> 03/2026

Ongoing LIFE Circular Economy and Quality of Life projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Project acronym and link to the online summary	Website	Project duration
Pure Copper and Zinc Recovery (PCR) from WtE bottom-ash: An innovative heap leaching and solvent extraction process	LIFE14 ENV/NL/000029	LIFE PCR	http://www.elemetalpcr.com/	07/2015-> 11/2022
Bio Guardrail 4 yoUr Safety LIFE 2015	LIFE15 ENV/NL/000173	BG4US LIFE 2015	https://bg4us.eu/	09/2016-> 09/2023
Demonstration of innovative alginate production from granular sludge: a paradigm change in waste water treatment	LIFE16 ENV/NL/000217	LIFE Waste2Kaamera	https://kaamera.com/	08/2017-> 06/2023
Polystyrene Loop	LIFE16 ENV/NL/000271	LIFE-PSLOOP	https://polystyreneLOOP.eu	07/2017-> 07/2023
From grass to grit: an innovative, circular approach to safe and biodiverse roads	LIFE17 ENV/NL/000266	LIFE GRASS2GRIT	https://www.grass2grit.com/	07/2018-> 12/2022
Sustainable riverine PLastic removal and management	LIFE17 ENV/NL/000339	LIFE SouPLess	https://allseas.com/life-souplless/	07/2018-> 12/2022
Boost conventional agricultures confidence: new organic biostimulants to reduce water, nutrients and pesticide demand	LIFE18 ENV/NL/000043	LIFE Plants for Plants	https://www.vaniperen.com/plants-for-plants/	07/2019-> 05/2022
LIFE Water Factory of the Future	LIFE18 ENV/NL/000217	LIFE WATER FACTORY	https://www.vallei-veluwe.nl/toptaken/bij-mij-in-de-buurt/in-voorbereiding/waterfabriek-wilp/life-water-factory/	07/2019-> 12/2024
Demonstrating a new approach for used beverage cartons and polycup recycling	LIFE18 ENV/NL/000339	LIFE PULPCYCLE	https://pulpcycle.eu/	09/2019-> 08/2023
Integrated full-scale treatment facility for different fractions of bottom ash ensuring safe use as secondary material	LIFE18 ENV/NL/000436	LIFE ASH 2 MATERIAL	https://www.heros.nl/nl/life/	07/2019-> 04/2022
Sustainable recycling of (Carbon) Fibre Composites and biomass waste to valued added CarbonGreen products	LIFE20 ENV/NL/000200	LIFE CarbonGreen	https://carbongreen.eu/	09/2021-> 08/2024
Increase the use of timber in the Dutch and Danish social housing sector for green growth and a circular EU economy	LIFE20 GIE/NL//001173	LIFE timber in housing	https://www.homeforthefuture.org/	09/2021-> 08/2026

Ongoing LIFE Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Project acronym and link to the online summary	Website	Project duration
Europe's single biggest citizen-driven initiative to plant and monitor 500	LIFE19 CCM/NL/001200	LIFE Terra	https://lifeterra.eu/	07/2020 -> 06/2025

million trees to mitigate climate change				
Low-carbon concrete: replacing cement by an innovative binder from incinerator bottom ash	LIFE19 CCM/NL/001219	LIFE MIBA FILLER	https://cempr.spinbox.nl/	07/2020 -> 12/2023
LIFE URBAN-ADAPT: demonstrating urban climate adaptation and resilience in inner city Rotterdam	LIFE14 CCA/NL/000302	LIFE URBAN-ADAPT	https://www.urbanadapt.eu	07/2015 -> 12/2023
Adaptation to extreme rainfall; demonstration of FHVI to prevent damage by urban pluvial flooding	LIFE15 CCA/NL/000052	LIFE AERFIT	http://aerfit.eu	07/2016 -> 12/2022
LIFE@Urban Roofs - stimulating private investment in climate adaptation - who's afraid of red, yellow, green and blue	LIFE16 CCA/NL/000096	LIFE@Urban Roofs	https://www.rotterdamenergiebesparing.nl/actueel/nieuws/life@urban-roofs-europese-steun-voor-klimaatadaptatie-in-rotterdam	07/2017 -> 12/2022
LIFE Local Water Adapt; innovative Collective, Adaptive Water Management	LIFE17 CCA/NL/000043	LIFE Local Water Adapt	https://www.superlocal.eu/life/	07/2018 -> 12/2023
Farming the Future – Building Rural Networks for Climate-Adaptive Agriculture	LIFE17 CCA/NL/000093	Farm LIFE	http://farm-life.eu/	09/2018 -> 08/2023
Climate Resilience Thru Involvement of LoCAL citizens (CRITICAL)	LIFE18 CCA/NL/001123	LIFE CRITICAL	https://lifecritical.eu	06/2019 -> 12/2025
Towards climate resilient forests and forest management	LIFE19 CCA/NL/001218	LIFE CLIMATE FOREST	https://www.climateforest.eu/	09/2020 -> 08/2027
LIFE_FRESHMAN: Sustainable freshwater management in coastal zones	LIFE19 CCA/NL/001222	LIFE FRESHMAN	https://www.dunea.nl/algemeen/life-freshman	07/2020 -> 12/2025
Damsterplein, the coolest square in town	LIFE20 CCA/NL/001621	LIFE COOL SQUARE	https://ruimtevoorjou.groningen.nl/life-cool-square/	07/2021 -> 07/2024
Increasing climate resilience and carbon sink of sandy soils on agricultural land	LIFE20 CCA/NL/001625	LIFE CO2SAND	N/A	07/2021 -> 06/2027
LIFE NEW HYTS: reNEWable green Hydrogen for Transport	LIFE20 CCA/NL/001664	LIFE NEW HYTS	N/A	07/2021 -> 12/2025
Netherlands National Adaptation Strategy on Climate Change, to Local Networks Accelerating Climate Resilience (NL-NASCCELERATE)	LIFE20 IPC/NL/000006	LIFE-IP NL-NASCCELERATE	N/A	03/2021 -> 12/2027